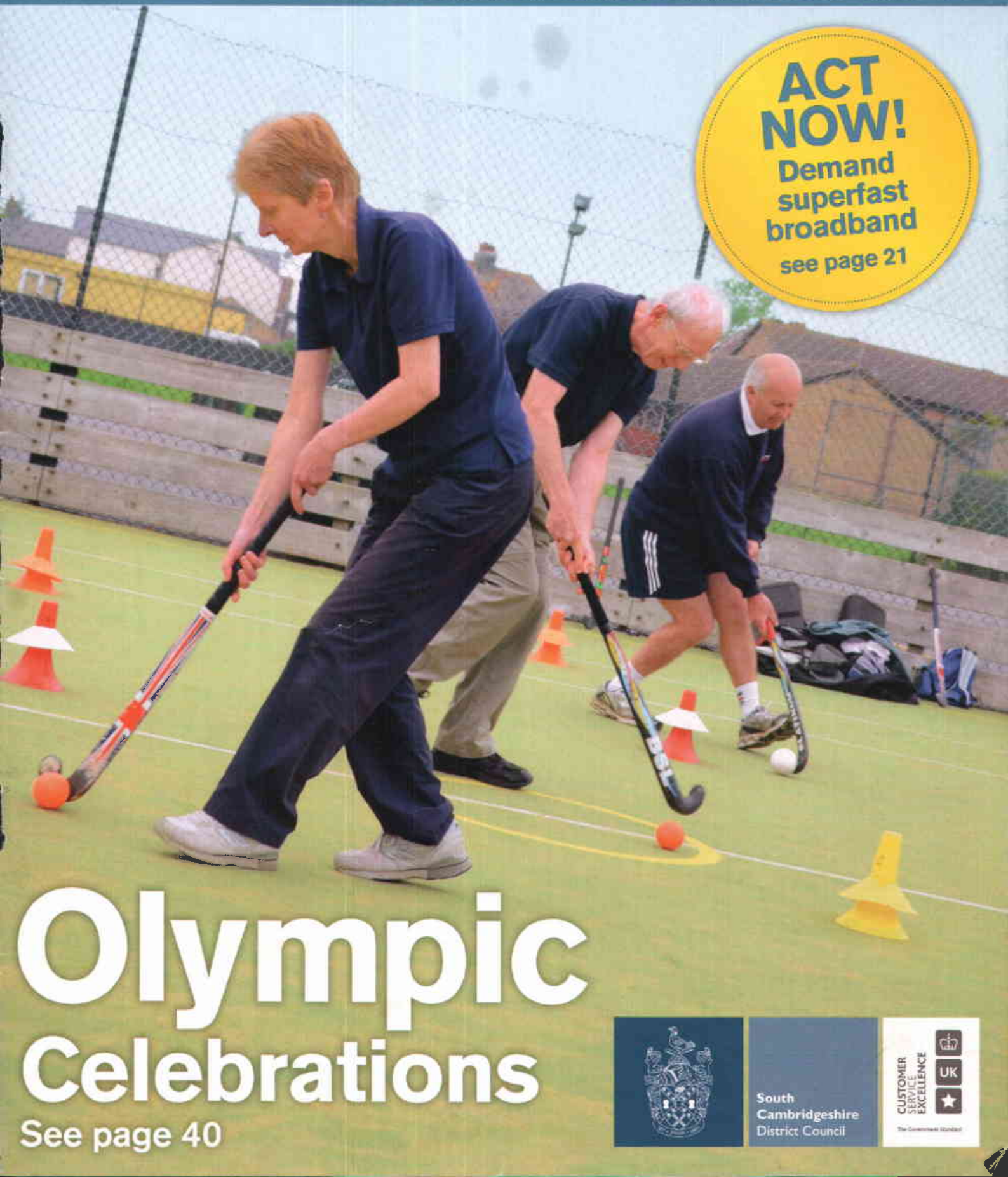
SouthCambs

MAGAZINE • SUMMER 2012

INSIDE // ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH // COMMUNITY // CONSERVATION // OLYMPICS // PLANNING // KEY ISSUES – TENANTS' NEWS



ACT NOW!
Demand superfast broadband
see page 21

Olympic Celebrations

See page 40

South Cambridgeshire District Council

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE UK

Fall in love this Summer with the fitted wardrobe look

Value for Money

Choose the perfect wardrobe...

...select from a wide range of colours...

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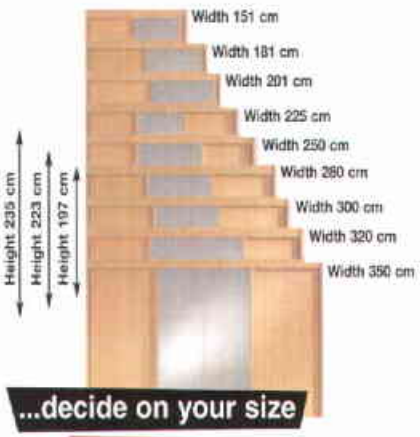

...decide on your size

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'This wardrobe solution saves you time, money and the hassle!'

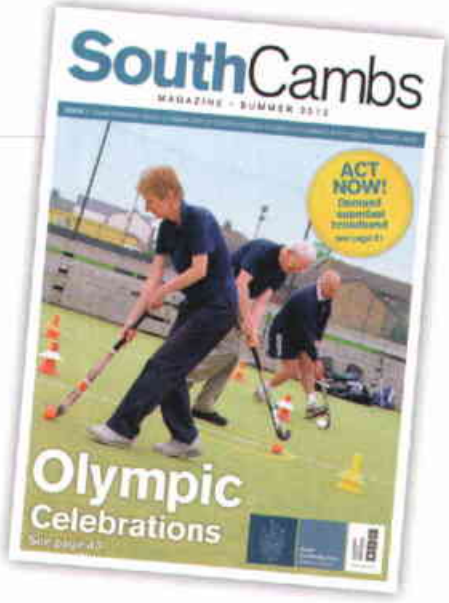
Welcome to the Summer issue of *South Cambs Magazine*.

The countdown is nearly over and the Olympics will soon be upon us. We're lucky to be staging the event in the UK and there's still time for people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved. Our district-wide programme of sports activities and celebration events aims to deliver a lasting legacy for the Games by encouraging participation in sport, improving health and wellbeing, and creating opportunities for entire communities. As one countdown ends, another begins. We need residents and businesses to help secure superfast broadband for the district by registering their demand for it. The more who do, the more chance we have of getting it. See page 21.

Cllr Ray Manning, Leader,
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Contents

How to contact us	04
Community	05
About your council	13
Councillors 2012-14	16
Business	21
Recycling and waste	23
Housing	27
Conservation	29
Environmental health	31
Youth	34
Planning	37
Olympics	40
Key issues – tenants' news	43



FRONT COVER: Over 50s event in Milton gets residents in the Olympic spirit (page 40)

Delivery queries

If you have any queries about your magazine delivery please contact PDC direct on 01904 606300 or email customerservice@teampdc.co.uk and they will be very pleased to help you

Follow us on: search 'South Cambridgeshire' @southcambs

Putting service first

If you phone us we will
- answer your call promptly – usually within 20 seconds
- provide voicemail if the person you need is unavailable
- answer your phone message within one working day

If you write to us we will
- reply to your letter or email within 10 working days
- if we cannot deal in full with your enquiry, we will give you the name of the officer dealing with it and a date when they will get back to you

If we write to you we will
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- consider translation, large type, Braille or audio tapes upon request

At all times we will
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If we visit you we will
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- arrive at the time we say, or give you as much notice as possible if we have to change the time
- treat your home with respect

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- acknowledge your written complaint within three working days
- reply in full to your complaint within 10 working days

Particular services have their own additional standards. These are available at www.scambs.gov.uk/customerstandards or copies can be sent by post – please call 03450 450 500

South Cambs Magazine

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ISSN: 1741-8852
scmag@scambs.gov.uk
Telephone: 03450 450 500

All delivery queries should be directed to:
PDC
Telephone: 01904 606300
Email: customerservice@teampdc.co.uk

Design, production & sales:

Design: Bright Publishing,
Bright House, 82 High Street,
Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3HJ
www.bright-publishing.com

For all advertising enquiries please contact:
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e: scdc@scambs.gov.uk
www.scambs.gov.uk
minicom: (01480) 376743

Telephone

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03450 450 051	housing general enquiries
03450 450 061	housing and council tax benefits
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There are several ways to make a payment to SCDC. We encourage payments by direct debit or by credit or debit card. Our card service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- by phone: 03450 455 218
- or online: **www.scambs.gov.uk/paymybill**

You can also pay using a payment card at any Post Office or Pay Point outlet.

To request a direct debit form or a payment card call 03450 450 064

Payments can also be made in person at Cambridge City Council's Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm, excluding bank holidays.

Our Vision

- South Cambridgeshire will continue to be the best place to live and work in the country. Our district will demonstrate impressive and sustainable economic growth. Our residents will have a superb quality of life in an exceptionally beautiful, rural and green environment. The Council will be recognised as consistently innovative and a high performer with a track record of delivering value for money by focussing on the priorities, needs and aspirations of our residents, parishes and businesses.

Tell us how we're doing

At SCDC we're proud of what we are trying to achieve and recognise we can always do better. To help improve our services, we need your feedback.

Whether it's a compliment, a general comment or a complaint, we want to hear from you. You can do this in a number of ways:

- in person at our offices Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm
- by telephone on 03450 450 500 Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm and on Saturday 9am – 1pm
- by email to feedback@scambs.gov.uk
- in writing to the customer service coordinator at our main office.

If you would like a copy in large print please contact:

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email: SCmag@scambs.gov.uk

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Sharing the joys of energy efficiency

Super energy-efficient homes and community buildings were on show to the public during May as part of the Open Eco Homes programme organised by local charity Cambridge Carbon Footprint and our own Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership.

The homes - in Longstanton, Grantchester, Milton and Stapleford - and community centres - in Coton and Gamlingay - have all had major work to improve how well they keep in the heat, generate their own energy, cut utility bills and make them much more comfortable.

Both community centres are now heated using heat pumps. These work a bit like the pump on your fridge, just the other way around! Gamlingay also has two kinds of solar panels – those that heat water and photovoltaic ones which generate electricity.

The homes that opened their doors are of different types and ages with a huge range of improvements covering everything from insulation and lighting, to draught-proofing and high tech renewable energy systems.

If you are keen to improve your home's energy efficiency, but are not quite sure how to do this, or upfront costs are obstacles, you will want to know more about the Government's Green Deal coming this autumn. You will be able to have an assessment of your home, detailing the best energy upgrades, and then get a loan to get the work done. The savings you make on your energy bills should always be more than the loan repayments so, in effect, the work doesn't cost you anything.

If you missed the event visit www.openecohomes.org and for more information on going green in your community, contact Siobhan Mellon on 0345 450 500 or visit www.spep.net

One year on – one great project

In another green initiative, doors were flung open to share the success one year after a project to transform homes at Rampton Drift, Longstanton, began.

Saturday 17 March saw the first of our retrofit open days with residents coming along to see the work carried out on homes to make them more energy efficient.

A Government grant helped carry out the groundbreaking work, which will show what could be achieved at the nearby proposed new town of Northstowe, as well as help to inform the Government's Green Deal.

By looking around the houses, and chatting to the residents whose homes had work carried out, visitors found out just how effective the work had been.

Also available to view was the online 'dash board' that allows participating residents to see how much energy they are using at any time, the temperature outside and inside their homes, along with humidity and CO_2 levels. This means residents have a real understanding of just what a difference the work has made.

The groundbreaking Rampton Drift retrofit project draws a lot of media attention

We will continue to monitor progress as we move into the summer, but for more information please email tracy.mann@scambs.gov.uk or call 0345 450 500

A feast of talent

Over 200 residents joined us for our fourth annual Arts Awards in March when we celebrated the work of more than 20 volunteers who have all enriched the local arts scene with their talent in the field of art, music or culture.

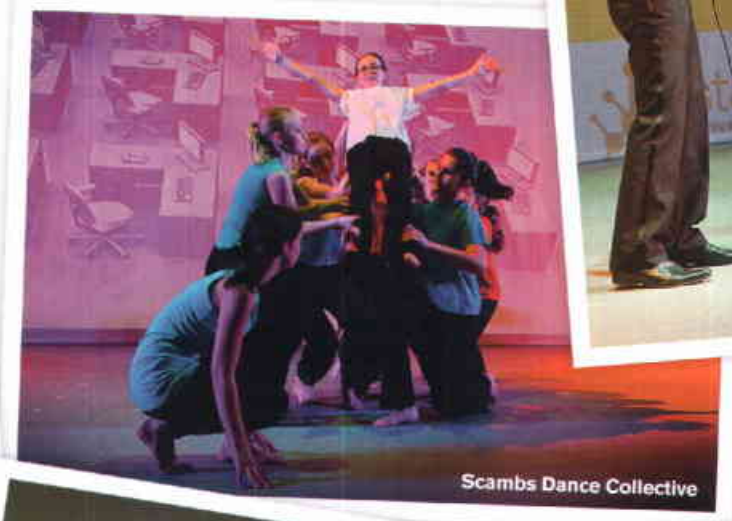
As well as the awards, the evening was packed with music, dance, dramatic performances and filmmaking from across the district. A special guest appearance by Jeremy Irvine, star of Hollywood blockbuster War Horse, kicked off the evening followed by performances from singers Savannah and Amalia from Histon and Impington, Over Singers and Drummers, and acclaimed local musicians Brooks Willams and Dave Olney.

This year's ceremony was supported by media partners Cambridge News who sponsored an award recognising the biggest contribution made by an individual to marketing the arts in their area. The award went to Greg Butler, of Foxton, for his work with Cambridge 105 Internet Community Radio.

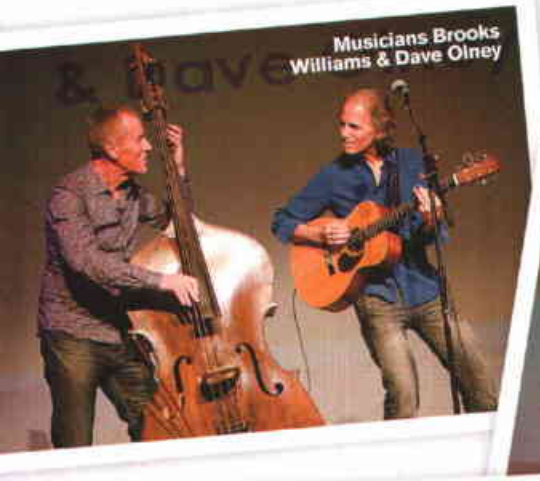
For a full list of award winners from the night visit our website - www.scambs.gov.uk/arts

The arts award ceremony was run in conjunction with stART, a partnership between the Council and the district's nine village colleges.

Chairman of the Council, Cllr Tony Orgee, said: "The annual event provides a fantastic opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work of local volunteers who give up their time to inspire others, and to present them with an award on behalf of their communities. It is also a great opportunity to showcase some of our local talent from across the district. In previous years the performances on the night have been top notch, and this year was no exception."


Scambs Dance Collective

• ABOVE Joe Dickens and David Snelling of Take The Fast Train


Musicians Brooks Williams & Dave Olney

• ABOVE Singers Savannah and Amalia

Over singers and drummers

Cambridge News award winner Greg Butler of Foxton

start sharing arts | connecting lives

Cambridge News

artsMASH

artsMASH offers creative workshops and activities for young people aged 8 to 18 years. For full listings, including the successful summer rock school, visit www.start-arts.org.uk/artsmash

Cambridgeshire Competes is a partnership between museums and sports centres who are exploring local connections to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. A programme of events will take place at Melbourn and Cottenham sports centres between July and September. Visit www.cambridgeshirecompetes.org.uk

If you're thinking of planning an event, check out the new website - www.startnow.org.uk - where you can get help on everything from finances, health and safety, licensing and working with artists, to managing the media and enjoying every moment.

Other summer highlights

- 14 and 15 July: Ramparts Summer Exhibition. Contemporary artwork, prints, cards and refreshments at Rampton Village Hall, 10am to 5pm
- 14 July: Cambourne Extreme Youth Fest. Wigwam music and wall of death amongst other sports and arts activities on the sports field at Back Lane from 11am to 5pm
- 18 July: Screening of The Artist at Swavesey Venue from 7pm
- 23 July and 27 July: Cottenham Summer School - A range of arts and craft courses including, textiles, drawing, painting, music, walking and jewellery making. Visit www.cvcweb.net, email community@cvcweb.net or call 01954 288 751 for booking information
- 2 August: Sleeping Beauty with Chapter House Theatre Company at Milton Country Park. For information visit www.miltoncountrypark.org

For a full listing of what's on near you visit www.cambridgeshire.net

Support for residents

The Council is committed to helping residents enjoy a better quality of life, and one of the ways we do this is to help fund organisations that provide free, confidential and impartial advice.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
The CAB helps residents with a host of legal and financial issues, from employment and debt management concerns, to housing and relationship matters.

The Council funds four local CAB offices and, despite being based just outside the district, they all serve our residents, providing help online, over the phone and in person. They are:

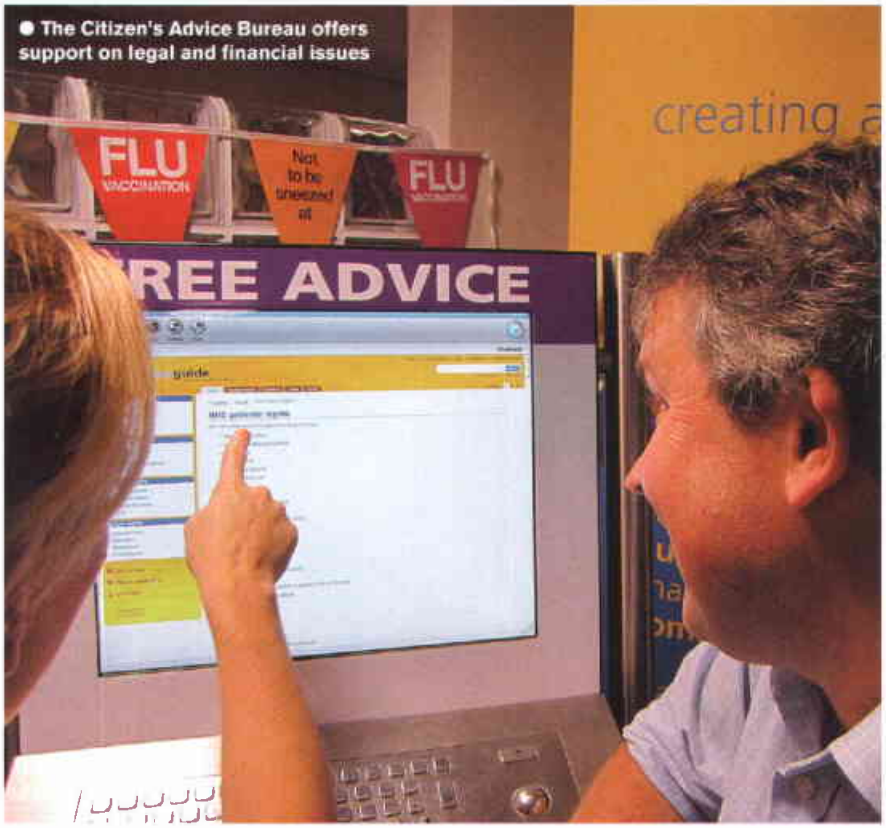
- **Devonshire Road, Cambridge**
  0844 848 7979
- **Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston**
  0844 411 1444
- **Centre for Voluntary Agencies, Lower Down Slade, Haverhill**
  01440 704 012
- **Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden**
  0844 477 5986

We also have CAB Advice Hubs operating from John Huntingdon's Charity in Sawston and Girton doctors surgery where people are on hand to help.

For details of all branches, advice hubs and online help, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Age UK
Age UK Cambridgeshire supports older people across the district, improving later life through information and advice that supports the many and varied decisions they need to make. This can range from money matters, consumer rights, health and social care, to identifying volunteering opportunities. For more information visit www.ageukcambridgeshire.org.uk

If you would like to talk through a problem or issue you are not sure about, you can ring Age UK on 0300 666 9860 (calls are charged at local rate)



The Citizen's Advice Bureau offers support on legal and financial issues

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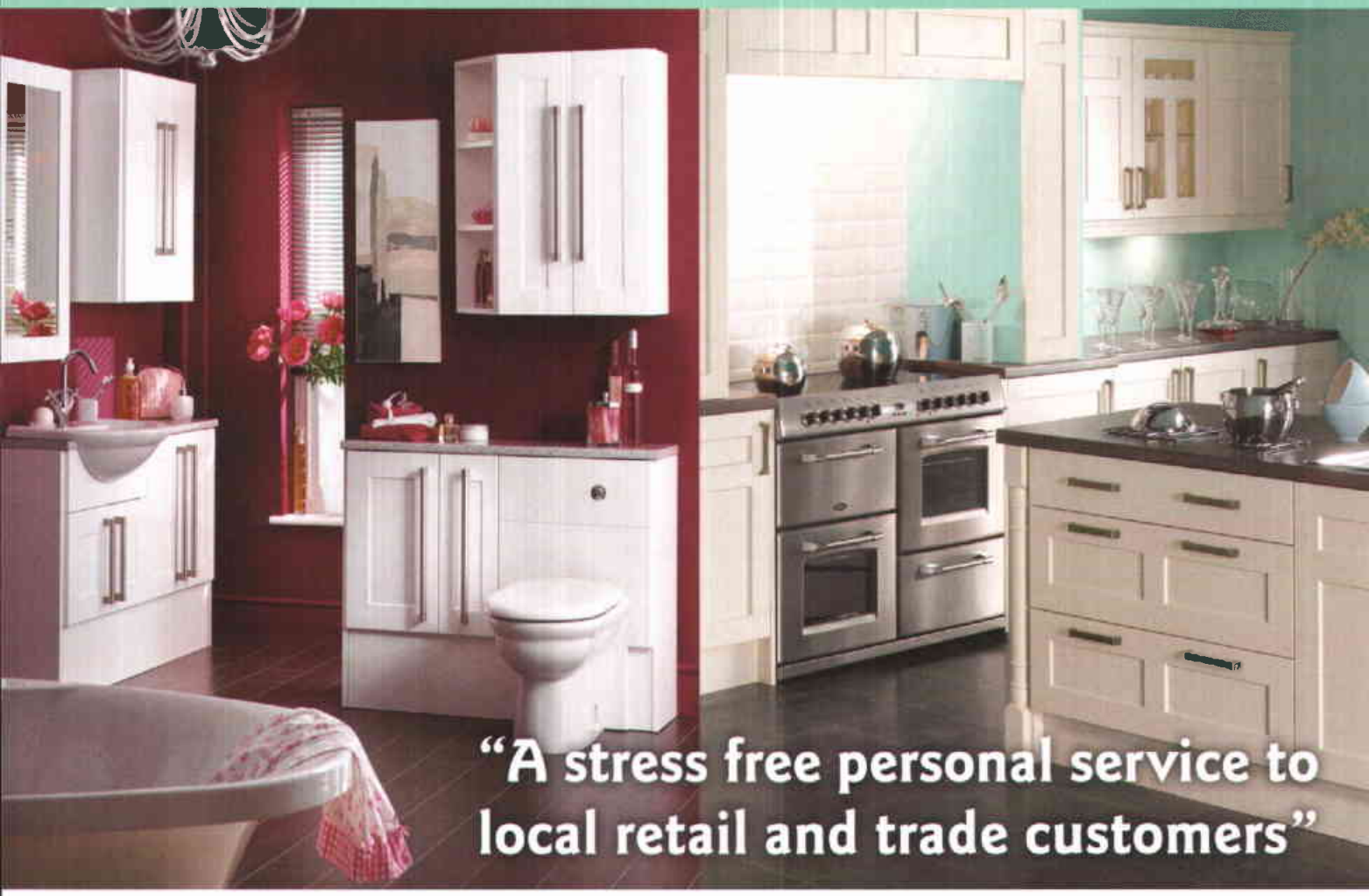

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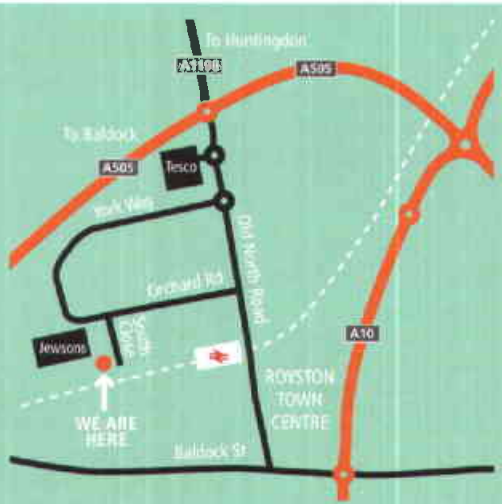

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Your choice: countdown to commissioners

IN LESS THAN six months one of the biggest changes in policing for several decades will happen. Local people will be able to choose who will hold to account their local police for the services provided.

The public will go to the polls in 41 policing areas in England and Wales on November 15 to vote for their preferred Police & Crime Commissioner. Whoever is elected locally will be Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's first Police & Crime Commissioner and will replace the Police Authority, taking up post on November 22.

Police & Crime Commissioners will have responsibility for delivering an efficient and effective police service in their area. They will set policing priorities, the police budget and issue Police & Crime grants through a Police & Crime plan. They will provide strong accountability of the police making the police answerable to the public. The Chief Constable's role is unchanged and will remain in control of his officers and staff.

The primary role of the Commissioner will be to support and, when necessary, challenge the Chief Constable. They must also work with agencies such as local councils, the NHS, the Probation Trust and the Criminal Justice System, to ensure there is a joined up approach to preventing and reducing crime.

The Commissioner will serve a four year term and will ultimately be held to account for their performance by voters at the ballot box. A Police & Crime Panel, made up of representatives from each of the city, county and districts along with two independent members, will also consider in public how the Commissioner delivers his or her functions.

SAVE THE DATE: *Thursday, November 15 2012*

The Panel's powers include the ability to publicly review the Commissioner's Police & Crime Plan and to veto the decision on the policing part of council tax (precept).

Victor Lucas, Vice Chairman of Cambridgeshire Police Authority said: "The Police Authority is working with the Constabulary and partner authorities to ensure a smooth transition to the new governance arrangements. The legislation passed through Parliament last September and we are now forging ahead with arrangements to ensure that the transition is successful and that the new Commissioner will be well equipped to serve Cambridgeshire's and Peterborough's communities."

If you are interested in standing for election as Police & Crime Commissioner, or want to find out more, further information can be found at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/ or www.cambs-pa.gov.uk/police-crime-commissioners.cfm

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 15, YOU MUST:

Be 18 or older on November 15
Live in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough
Be registered to vote

Details on how to vote will be available in the forthcoming weeks from the Electoral Commission

Police & Crime Commissioners will:

- Award Police & Crime grants to organisations who will support their community safety priorities
- Publish an annual Police & Crime Plan
- Set local Police & Crime objectives
- Engage with the community
- Hold the Chief Constable to account (hire and, if necessary, dismiss)
- Set the policing part of council tax (precept)

Police & Crime Panels can:

- Veto the Commissioner's decision on council tax precept
- Request further information from the Commissioner to hold him/ her to account for performance
- Call the Commissioner and Chief Constable to public hearings
- Publicly review the Police & Crime Plan and annual report

Police & Crime Panels ARE NOT a replacement for police authorities.

Got a question or comment about Police & Crime Commissioners? Email **police.authority@cambs.pnn.police.uk** or write to Cambridgeshire Police Authority, Police Headquarters, Hinchingbrooke Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6NP. Or follow our dedicated commissioner feed on Twitter **@PCCCambs**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
Website: www.cambs-pa.gov.uk
Telephone: 0300 333 3456

Community cash up for grabs

We are very pleased to be pooling our resources with the City Council to launch a new Reward Grant Fund of £100,000 for the benefit of local communities. Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 will be allocated to community groups, charities and not-for-profit organisations that are working to reduce inequality through projects that:

- improve the employability of local people, especially young people
- help older people to maintain independence and live in their own homes as long as possible
- work with disadvantaged communities where people are living on low incomes or are vulnerable because of age, disability or other factors.

The fund will be administered by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, which is inviting bids until 15 September.

For more information visit www.cambscf.org.uk or telephone Marion Branch at Cambridgeshire Community Foundation on (01480) 410535.

We are also happy to report that our Community Chest grant scheme has been reopened for 2012/13 with a pot of £55,000. Bids of up to £1,000 are invited from local groups and communities needing financial support for a one-off expense or project. Applications will be assessed on a first come, first served, basis.

Our Community Chest fund has previously funded equipment for local sports groups including, indoor bowls, cricket, football and netball, helped with storage for Girl Guide camping equipment, provided picnic seating for villagers, as well as support for various Jubilee and Olympic celebrations. Cambourne Football Club received a grant of £940 to purchase goals, benches and weatherproof jackets for players. The grant has made a huge difference to the club, with warmer players who no longer have to sit on the cold, wet grass!

BELOW Cambourne Football Club, which received a grant towards new equipment and kit

For more information, visit the South Cambridgeshire grants portal at www.scambs.gov.uk/communitygrants, or call Kathryn Hawkes on (01954) 713290 to discuss your ideas before applying

Online grant support

Local community groups, parish councils and individuals looking for funding are reminded to check out our new online grants portal at www.scambs.gov.uk/communitygrants. This guides you through all the grant schemes that are open, or due to reopen, for bids. They include grants for service support, community facilities, play equipment and conservation work. Each scheme has a named contact to speak to for more information, as well as downloadable application forms, guidance notes and eligibility criteria. You'll also find a simple checklist of what is required for each application.

Keep an eye out on the portal for new funding updates. If you have any questions, contact Kathryn Hawkes on (01954) 713290

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JUNE

Monday	4th	Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday - Open 8am - 6pm. Early Bird Offer 10% off 8am - 9.30am
Tuesday	5th	Diamond Jubilee - Open 9am - 6pm
Thursday	28th	Bee Keeping and the Gardener Talk 6.30pm - 7.30pm (Please phone to book your place)

JULY

Sunday	1st	Childrens Gardening Club - WingBeats Reptiles and Invertebrates 11am-3pm (All welcome)
Thursday	19th	Summer Jazz Evening 6pm -9pm (All Welcome)
Sunday	22nd	Children's Gardening Club - Meet the Meercats 11am - 3pm (All Welcome)
Thursday	26th	Children's Gardening Club - Bug Hotel & Habitats (please phone to book your place)
Sunday	29th	Squeak Roadshow with Wood Green Bring your rodent in for a free health check (please phone to book your place)

AUGUST

Thursday	23rd	Children's Gardening club - Summer Fun day 11am - 3pm (All welcome)
Thursday	23rd	Rabbit & Guinea Pig Day with Wood Green Bring your Rabbit or Guinea Pig in for a free health check (please phone to book your place)

For further information on any of our events or to reserve a place please call 01223 842777

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Delivering on our promises

We set tough aims last financial year to try and make our services better than ever, and are pleased to say we've been delivering on our promises.

We have recently published a booklet showing our residents just how far we've achieved all the targets we set ourselves. Here's a few highlights:

- Solar panels were installed on 500 council houses (see page 44)
- The 'Cambridge Plus' business website launced in March, to help our businesses and encourage investment (see page 21)
- £90k was allocated from our support fund to help local businesses
- Five new community orchards were funded
- Social car schemes were established in Cambourne, Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey, adding to our already successful network
- 99.3% of council tax and 99.5% of business rates were collected, securing our place as one of the top national performers
- The district's first youth council, which will provide a voice for young people in our community is being set up

• ABOVE **Janet Crouch, of Great Chishill, a volunteer driver for Royston Community and District Transport Scheme which receives grant aid from the Council**

With your input, councillors agreed a new programme of priorities for the year ahead. You can view the targets we are now aiming for at www.scambs.gov.uk/priorities

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

Elections for the District Council may be complete for another year – but we will soon be contacting households as there is another important election coming up soon.

There is a legal obligation on us to make contact with every household in our district to check that the information we hold is accurate, and this year we will be starting earlier than usual. The reason is that the first ever Police and Crime Commissioner elections are being held on 15 November. A summer canvass will ensure the register is complete and accurate in advance of the November polls. When you receive your form, it is vital that you respond to ensure you are able to vote in any elections held over the next year.

If all the details on your form are correct, and no changes are needed, we have quicker, cheaper and easier ways for you to get in touch. The online, text message and free phone services are all listed at the top of your form.

If you do need to update any details you must fill in the form, sign it, and send it back.

Important changes to council tax benefits

The Government is making some important and fundamental changes to the way council tax benefits will be calculated and managed from April next year.

In the past the Council distributed benefit to those who were eligible, and we have been able to reclaim the entire sum from central Government. From April, this will no longer be the case as the Government looks to save £500 million nationally.

In the future, councils will be given a sum of funding to distribute, but the amount we will receive is likely to be around 10% less than the total we currently claim back from Government.

We are still waiting for the final legislation, but we know we are going to have some tough decisions to make.

To make sure we get these decisions right for residents in South Cambridgeshire, we have already begun working closely with elected members, other councils, and have held workshops with representative groups to help us put forward some options for a new council tax benefit system. This will take the form of a discount to council tax.

The Government intends to support pensioners on low incomes as they would struggle to pay council tax without the discount.

We are very committed to listening to what our residents have to say and a formal consultation with claimants, taxpayers and stakeholders will be held later in the year. More information on the consultation will be included in the next edition of the South Cambs Magazine.

Local services, local issues, local platform for change

Are you frustrated about a local service and want to do something about it? Here's your chance.

We are putting a call out to residents for suggestions of what our watchdog should investigate next. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee look into, and try to improve, the quality and efficiency of local services, whether we provide them or not.

Some recent examples where the committee has identified improvements for services include community transport, sheltered housing support, and planning. And following a review of the Council's customer contact services, our contact centre will be moving back in house by the end of the year – saving the Council around £250,000 and improving the range of contact channels.

Although the committee doesn't look into one-off individual problems, the Council is really keen to hear about issues you are aware of in your community.

Contact our scrutiny officer, Jackie Sayers, on 03450 450 500 or email scrutiny@scambs.gov.uk Or get in touch on Facebook – log on and search for 'South Cambridgeshire' – or through Twitter by 'tweeting' @southcambs

Panel in action

There's still time for residents to join our consultation panel.

The panel provides you with opportunities to give us your opinion on a range of council services and priorities, without taking up too much of your time.

Later this year, we'll be using the panel to consult on our new local development plan (see page 37), a vital document setting out where and how much development should take place in our district over the next 20 years.

As everybody's opinions matter, we are looking for views from all sections of the community. To achieve this we are using a mixture of online, paper surveys and face-to-face focus groups.

• RIGHT We are seeking residents views via a number of channels

To sign up, please call Richard May on (01954) 713366 or visit www.scambs.gov.uk/priorities

Dates for your diary

Council meetings are where decisions are made that have a real impact in your communities. Most of these meetings are public, so why not come along and see councillors in action?

All meetings are held at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne:

Council – Thursday 26 July and 27 September at 2pm

Cabinet – Thursday 13 September at 6pm

Scrutiny and Overview Committee – Thursday 6 September at 7pm

Corporate Governance Committee – Friday 28 September at 9am

Planning Committee – Wednesday 1 August, 5 September and 3 October at 10am

We are also expecting some additional meetings to be scheduled in the next few months. To view an up-to-date calendar please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/meetings

Occasionally, scheduled meetings are rearranged or cancelled, so we always suggest that you check. If you do not have access to the internet you can call democratic services on 03450 450 500.

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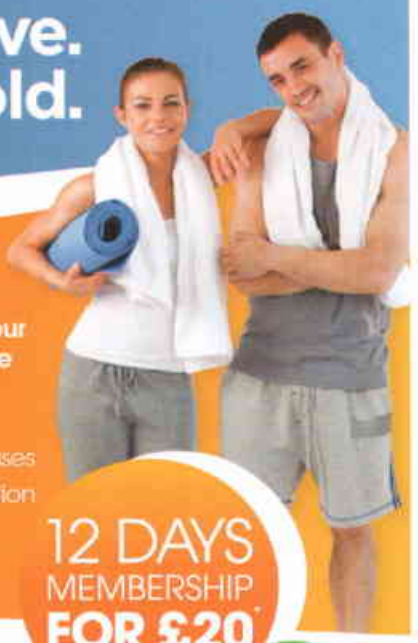

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Know your councillor 2012-14

Once again in May, residents headed to the polls to elect councillors for a third of the seats on the District Council.

There are 57 councillors on South Cambridgeshire District Council representing 36 wards. They are elected by local residents to represent and champion the community, businesses and residents in their local area. As well as representational roles, councillors participate in the political management of the Council, setting priorities and deciding how these should be carried out, agreeing the annual budget and important policies, and sitting on various committees.

You can contact your local councillor to raise issues of local concern, discuss any aspects of the Council's services or find out about matters relating to your area. We have listed all the councillors by ward and provided their contact details for your convenience. These can also be found on our website.

If you have any difficulty contacting a councillor please call on 03450 450 500 or email democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk

Political make-up

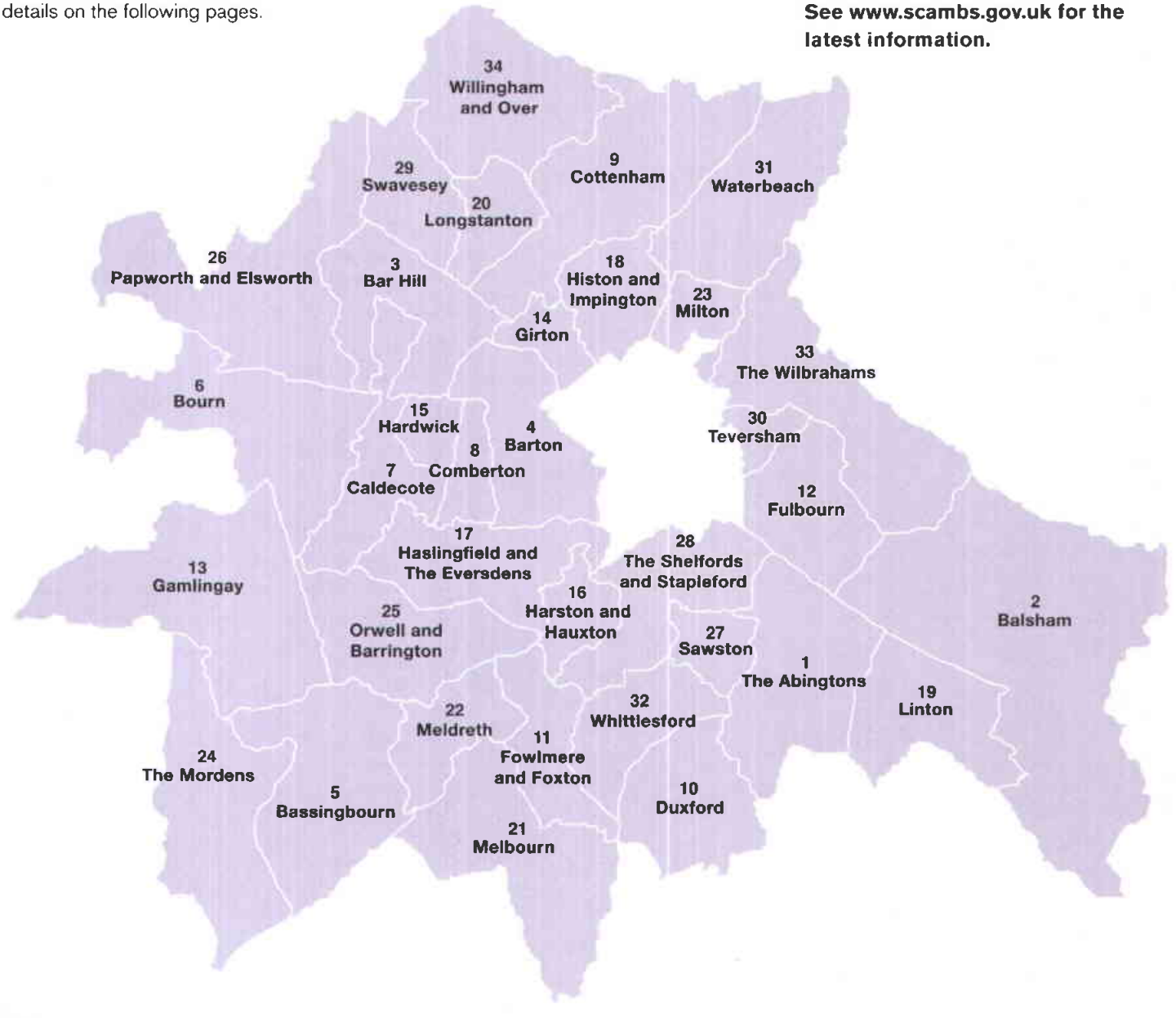
- **Conservative (CON)** 33
- **Liberal Democrat (LD)** 16
- **Independent (Group - IND)** 6
- **Independent (Non-group - NG)** 1
- **Labour (LAB)** 1

South Cambridgeshire District Council wards

The map below shows the district's wards. The accompanying numbers will help you find your local councillor and their contact details on the following pages.

All details are correct at time of going to print, but may change throughout the year.

See www.scambs.gov.uk for the latest information.



1. The Abingtons

Villages covered: Babraham, Great Abington, Hinxton, Little Abington, Pampisford

Cllr Tony Orgee (CON)
8 Bourn Bridge Road,
Little Abington,
Cambridge CB21 6BJ
T (01223) 891464
E cllr.orgee@scambs.gov.uk

2. Balsham

Villages covered: Balsham, Carlton, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Shudy Camps, West Wickham, West Wratting, Weston Colville

Cllr Richard Barrett (CON)
18 West Wickham Road,
Balsham, Cambridge
CB21 4DZ
T (01223) 290882
E cllr.barrettre@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Pauline Jarvis (LD)
2 Nosterfield End, Castle
Camps, Cambridge CB21 4TG
T (01799) 584997
E cllr.jarvis@scambs.gov.uk

3. Bar Hill

Villages covered: Bar Hill, Boxworth, Dry Drayton, Lolworth

Cllr Roger Hall (CON)
11 Almond Grove, Bar Hill,
Cambridge CB23 8DU
M 07784 770083
E cllr.hall@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Bunty Waters (CON)
77 Foxhollow, Bar Hill,
Cambridge CB23 8ES
T (01954) 201421
M 07734 690580
E cllr.waters@scambs.gov.uk

4. Barton

Villages covered: Barton, Coton, Grantchester, Madingley

Cllr Francis Burkitt (CON)
Merton House, 17 Broadway,
Grantchester, Cambridge
CB3 9NQ
T (01223) 840128
E cllr.burkitt@scambs.gov.uk

5. Bassingbourn

Villages covered: Bassingbourn, Litlington, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Whaddon

Cllr Nigel Cathcart (LAB)
68 Spring Lane,
Bassingbourn,
Royston SG8 5HT
T (01763) 243637
E cllr.cathcart@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr David McCraith (CON)
Mulberry House, 104 North
End, Bassingbourn, Royston
SG8 5PD
T (01763) 248249
E cllr.mccraith@scambs.gov.uk

6. Bourn

Villages covered: Bourn, Cambourne, Caxton, Croxton, Eltisley

Cllr Alison Elcox (CON)
The Knoll,
131 Alms Hill
Bourn, Cambridge
CB23 2SZ
T (01954) 719519
E cllr.elcox@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Clayton Hudson (CON)
3 Stagwell Road,
Great Cambourne,
Cambridge CB23 5DU
T (01954) 718816
M 07917 060239
E cllr.hudson@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Mervyn Loynes (CON)
28 The Green, Eltisley,
St Neots, Cambridgeshire
PE19 6TG
T (01480) 880806
E cllr.loynes@scambs.gov.uk

7. Caldecote

Villages covered: Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Toft

Cllr Tumi Hawkins (LD)
90 West Drive, Highfields,
Caldecote, Cambridge
CB23 7NY
T (01954) 210840
E cllr.hawkins@scambs.gov.uk

8. Comberton

Cllr Stephen Harangozo (LD)
57 Hillfield Road, Comberton,
Cambridge CB23 7DB
T (01223) 264340
E cllr.harangozo@scambs.gov.uk

9. Cottenham

Villages covered: Cottenham, Oakington, Rampton, Westwick

Cllr Lynda Harford (LD)
7 Kingfisher Way, Cottenham,
Cambridge CB24 8XN
M 07889 131022
E cllr.harford@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Simon Edwards (CON)
8 Manor Farm Close,
Oakington,
Cambridge CB24 3AT
T (01223) 233682
E cllr.edwards@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Tim Wotherspoon (CON)
The Three Horse Shoes,
135 High Street, Cottenham
Cambridge CB24 8SD
T (01954) 252108
E cllr.wotherspoon@scambs.gov.uk

10. Duxford

Villages covered: Duxford, Ickleton

Cllr Mick Martin (CON)
Wingsfold,
17a Hunts Road
Duxford, Cambridge
CB22 4RE
T (01223) 835197
E cllr.martin@scambs.gov.uk

11. Fowlmere and Foxton

Cllr Deborah Roberts (IND)
Amberley, Long Lane,
Fowlmere,
Royston SG8 7TG
T (01763) 208627
E cllr.roberts@scambs.gov.uk

12. Fulbourn

Cllr John G Williams (LD)
73 Station Road, Fulbourn,
Cambridge CB21 5ER
T (01223) 880940
E cllr.williamsjg@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Neil Scarr (IND)
9 Haggis Gap, Fulbourn
Cambridge CB21 5HD
T (01223) 880029
E cllr.scarr@scambs.gov.uk

13. Gamlingay

Villages covered: Arrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Hatley, Little Gransden, Longstowe

Cllr Sebastian Kindersley (LD)
The Manor Barn, East Hatley
Sandy SG19 3JA
T (01767) 651982
E cllr.kindersley@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Bridget Smith (LD)
Maypole House, 39 Church Street, Gamlingay, Sandy SG19 3JJ
T (01767) 650510
E cllr.smithbz@scambs.gov.uk

14. Girton

Cllr Thomas Bygott (CON)
9 Station Road, Oakington,
Cambridge CB24 3AH
T (01223) 232966
E cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Douglas de Lacey (IND)
9 Woodlands Park, Girton,
Cambridge CB3 0QB
T (01223) 565219
E cllr.delacey@scambs.gov.uk

15. Hardwick

Cllr Jim Stewart (LD)
7 Sudeley Grove,
Hardwick, Cambridge
CB23 7XS
T (07806) 875727
E cllr.stewart@scambs.gov.uk

16. Harston and Hauxton

Cllr Janet Lockwood (LD)
The Old House, 31 High Street
Hauxton, Cambridge
CB22 5HW
T (01223) 870240
E cllr.lockwood@scambs.gov.uk

17. Haslingfield and The Eversdens

Villages covered: Great Eversden, Harlton, Haslingfield, Little Eversden

Cllr Robin Page (IND)
Bird's Farm Cottage, 26
Haslingfield Road, Barton
Cambridge, CB23 7AG
T (01223) 870289

18. Histon and Impington

Villages covered: Histon, Impington, Orchard Park

Cllr Jonathan Chatfield (LD)
2 Parr Close, Impington,
Cambridge CB24 9YH
T (01223) 520132
E cllr.chatfield@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Edd Stonham (LD)
12 Normanton Way, Histon,
Cambridge CB24 9XS
M 07595 020603
E cllr.stonham@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Neil Davies (IND)
8 Dwyer Joyce Close, Histon,
Cambridge, CB24 9JZ
T (01223) 232514
E cllr.davies@scambs.gov.uk

19. Linton

Villages covered: Bartlow, Hildersham, Linton

Cllr Roger Hickford (CON)
The Meadows, Joiners Road,
Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NP
E cllr.hickford@scambs.gov.uk

19. Linton

Cllr Trisha Bear (LD)
16 Emsons Close, Linton,
Cambridge CB21 4NB
T (01223) 892656
E cllr.bear@scambs.gov.uk

20. Longstanton

Cllr Alex Riley (CON)
St Michael's Mount,
St Michael's, Longstanton,
Cambridge CB24 3BZ
T (01954) 208000
E cllr.riley@scambs.gov.uk

21. Melbourn

Villages covered: Great Heydon, Little Chishill, Melbourn

Cllr Val Barrett (CON)
Kirkside, 2 Station Road
Melbourn, Royston SG8 6DX
T (01763) 261227
E cllr.barrettvm@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Jose Hales (LD)
23 Elm Way, Melbourn,
Royston SG8 6UH
T (01763) 221058
E cllr.hales@scambs.gov.uk

22. Meldreth

Villages covered: Meldreth, Shepreth

Cllr Surinder Soond (LD)
20 Barrington Road,
Shepreth, Royston SG8 6QB
T (01763) 268447
E cllr.soond@scambs.gov.uk

23. Milton

Cllr Hazel Smith (LD)
7 Hall End, Milton,
Cambridge CB24 6AQ
T (01223) 860752
E cllr.smithhm@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Hersom (LD)
28 Woodfield Lane, Lower
Cambourne, Cambridge
CB23 6FB
T (07852) 997771
E cllr.hersom@scambs.gov.uk

24. The Mordens

Villages covered: Abington Pigotts, Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Tadlow

Cllr Cicely Murfitt (IND-NG)
10 Silver Street, Guilden Morden, Royston SG8 0JT
T (01763) 852526
E cllr.murfitt@scambs.gov.uk

25. Orwell and Barrington

Villages covered: Barrington, Orwell, Wimpole

Cllr Ted Ridgway Watt (CON)
4 Bluebell Drive, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6GT
T (01954) 712786
E cllr.ridgway-watt@scambs.gov.uk

26. Papworth and Elsworth

Villages covered: Conington, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Graveley, Knapwell, Papworth Everard, Papworth St Agnes

Cllr Mark Howell (CON)
2 Vinter Close, Papworth Everard, Cambridge CB23 3RU
T (01480) 831848
E cllr.howell@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Nick Wright (CON)
Marshalls Farm, Elsworth Road, Conington, Cambridge CB23 4LW
T (01954) 267202
E cllr.wright@scambs.gov.uk

27. Sawston

Cllr David Bard (CON)
15 Huddleston Way, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3SW
T (01223) 501165
E cllr.bard@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Sally Hatton (IND)
15 Hayfield Avenue, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3JZ
T (01223) 836360
E cllr.hatton@scambs.gov.uk

27. Sawston

Cllr Raymond Matthews (CON)
10 Holme Way, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3LD
T (01223) 833610
E cllr.matthews@scambs.gov.uk

28. The Shelfords and Stapleford

Villages covered: Great Shelford, Little Shelford, Newton, Stapleford

Cllr Charles Nightingale (CON)
12 Aylesford Way, Stapleford Cambridge CB22 5DP
T (01223) 844763
E cllr.nightingale@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Benjamin Shelton (CON)
2 Forge End, Stapleford, Cambridge CB22 5BN
T (01223) 841085
E cllr.shelton@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr David Whiteman-Downes (CON)
38 Granhams Road, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5JX
T (01223) 845954
E cllr.whiteman-downes@scambs.gov.uk

29. Swavesey

Cllr Susan Ellington (CON)
19 Wallman's Lane, Swavesey, Cambridge CB24 4QY
T (01954) 202923
E cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk

30. Teversham

Cllr Caroline Hunt (CON)
35 High Street, Teversham, Cambridge CB1 9AA
T (01223) 292388
E cllr.hunt@scambs.gov.uk

31. Waterbeach

Villages covered: Chittering, Landbeach, Waterbeach

Cllr James Hockney (CON)
20 Levitt Lane, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9AZ
T (01223) 441289
E cllr.hockney@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Peter Johnson (CON)
25 Jubilee Close, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9NY
T (01223) 560918
E cllr.johnson@scambs.gov.uk

32. Whittlesford

Villages covered: Thriplow and Whittlesford

Cllr Peter Topping (CON)
Reeds Cottage, 11 West End, Whittlesford, Cambridge CB22 4LX
T (01223) 834905
E cllr.topping@scambs.gov.uk

33. The Wilbrahams

Villages covered: Fen Ditton, Great Wilbraham, Horningsea, Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom, Stow cum Quy

Cllr Robert Turner (CON)
Reed Cottage,1 Rectory Farm Road, Little Wilbraham Cambridge CB21 5LB
T (01223) 813437
E cllr.turner@scambs.gov.uk

34. Willingham and Over

Cllr Brian Burling (CON)
Chain Farm, Overcote Road, Over, Cambridge CB24 5NS
T (01954) 230168
E cllr.burling@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Philippa Corney (CON)
38 Mill Road, Over, Cambridge CB24 5PY
T (01954) 231221
E cllr.corney@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Ray Manning (CON)
130 Station Road, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5HG
T (01954) 261235
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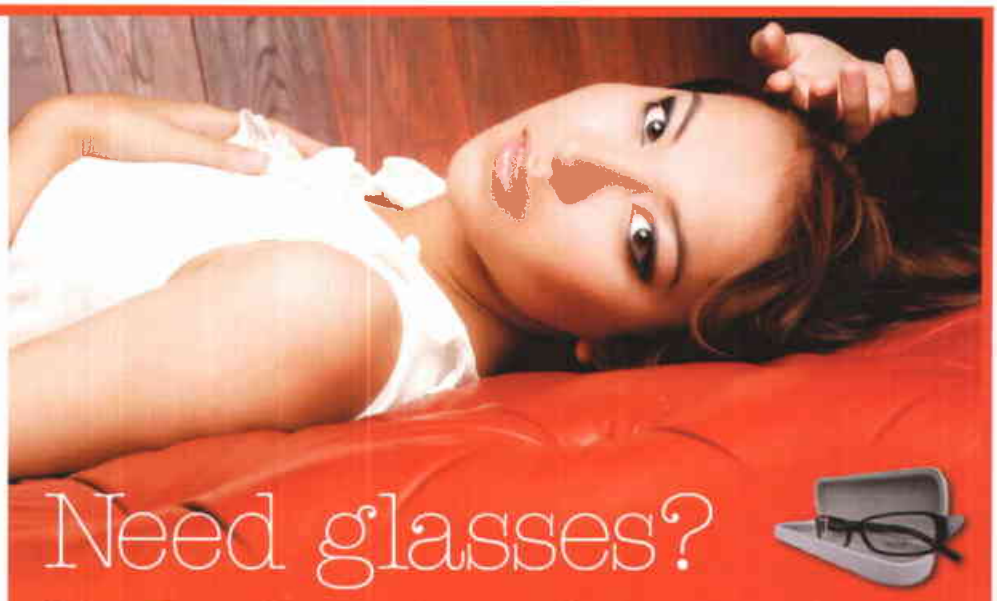

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To show suppliers there is demand, and attract investment, we need you to log on to www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk to register your support. Freepost reply forms are also available at your local library or council offices.

The plan is to provide access to superfast broadband to at least 90% of homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and better broadband connections for all other premises by 2015. We need your support.

Olympic gold for local businesses

Local businesses have been boosted by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games with 31 contracts for products and services being awarded to companies in South Cambridgeshire. And there are still further opportunities for others to get involved so don't miss out.

An enormous range of goods, works and services are still needed for the Games and The Business Network can help if you want to bid (see details below).

As we are just over an hour away from the Olympic Park in London, tourism businesses are also set to be boosted as visitors make their way to Cambridgeshire.

Visit Cambridge, the official tourism service for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, is on hand to help businesses wanting extra help to make sure they take full advantage of the higher footfall this summer. A new 2012 and beyond visitor guide has been printed, and more information about Visit Cambridge, and the guide, can be found by logging on to www.visitcambridge.org

Visit www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/index.php for further information. South Cambridgeshire businesses can also use the "Compete For" website www.competefor.com/business/nru/home.html to view London 2012 tender and contracting opportunities

Big plus

In March we launched "Cambridge Plus" – a new approach in South Cambridgeshire to help businesses and encourage investment in the district. A major tool which we have worked on with partners and businesses is a new one-stop shop business-friendly website - www.cambridge-plus.com This brings together a vast range of information available to support businesses and attract new firms to the district. The website also showcases what the district can offer to investors, and businesses already here, to help create new jobs. On top of information about how the Council is taking an 'open for business' approach, it allows firms to *step in* to the district, *sit down* and see what it has to offer, to *set up* all at a click of a button.

The Council, along with partners, also offers support for businesses – such as networking workshops, help with funding, tax advice and even business rate relief for firms who have found themselves in difficult times – and the website is a great tool for keeping up to date with the latest news.

• ABOVE Cabinet member for economic development, Cllr Nick Wright, and Chief Executive, Jean Hunter, launching the new one-stop shop for local business

Cambridge plus
Where work and life prosper

For more information contact Nicole Kritzinger, economic development & tourism officer on nicole.kritzinger@scambs.gov.uk or (01954) 713454

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Tonnes of reasons to recycle your paper

Did you know that over 10% of the total waste we collect in black bins is paper – most of which could be recycled by putting it in the blue bin paper caddy? And although South Cambridgeshire residents are already among the most committed recyclers in the country, we are asking you to do even more to try and boost paper recycling rates.

Residents across the district did a fantastic job last year as we collected around 5,200 tonnes of paper. But, as a forest the size of Wales is chopped down to supply the UK with paper each year, we hope we can all do a bit more recycling to help reduce energy and conserve rapidly depleting resources.

By collectively recycling so much paper last year, our residents have helped reduce the number of trees needed to be cut down for paper by over 88,000. This is a staggering number of trees, and by making sure paper doesn't fall into your black bins we hope we can all help see that number soar even further this year.

We introduced the paper caddy alongside blue bins as a means of keeping paper separate from your other recycling as it is valuable and can be recycled into higher quality products. Once the paper is collected it is tipped at our centre in Waterbeach and then bulked and taken to a paper mill for recycling. At the paper mill, the paper is washed to remove inks, reshaped, rolled and finally dried. The recycled paper is then ready to be used to produce newspapers.

In our last edition of this magazine, we issued residents with a sticker for their blue bin to help remind you what goes into the blue bin and the paper caddy. If you missed it, and would like a sticker to help you, just get in touch.

You can also see what goes where by turning to page 25.

Although most papers can be placed in the paper caddy, we ask for tissues and kitchen paper to be put in the green bin for composting. This is because they are very low quality.

Later this year we also plan to launch a paper recycling competition – watch this space for more details.

If you have too much...

...paper to fit in your paper caddy, you can place it in a returnable container, such as a green box, alongside your blue bin. Please keep the extra paper separate from your other blue bin recyclables.

By putting paper in your caddy it can be recycled into high quality products

For more information about your blue bin and paper caddy, please call 03450 450 063 or email bluebin@scambs.gov.uk

Collection dates

- **Bins must be out by 7am on your collection day**

Collection one day later | Green & blue bins | Black bin | Change to collection

Monday

Babraham, Balsham, Gt Abington, Gt Shelford, Harston, Hauxton, Hildersham, Hinxton, Ickleton, Lt Abington, Lt Shelford, Pampisford, Stapleford

6 Jun	12 Jun	18 Jun	25 Jun	2 Jul	9 Jul	16 Jul	23 Jul	30 Jul	6 Aug	13 Aug	20 Aug	28 Aug	3 Sep	10 Sep	17 Sep	24 Sep	1 Oct
Wed	Tue											Tue					

Bartlow, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton, Sawston, Shudy Camps

6 Jun	12 Jun	18 Jun	25 Jun	2 Jul	9 Jul	16 Jul	23 Jul	30 Jul	6 Aug	13 Aug	20 Aug	28 Aug	3 Sep	10 Sep	17 Sep	24 Sep	1 Oct
Wed	Tue											Tue					

Tuesday

Carlton, Coton, Gt Wilbraham, Histon, Horningsea, Impington, Lt Wilbraham, Madingley, Orchard Park, Six Mile Bottom, Teversham/ Cherry Hinton*, West Wickham, West Wratting, Weston Colville

7 Jun	13 Jun	19 Jun	26 Jun	3 Jul	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul	31 Jul	7 Aug	14 Aug	21 Aug	29 Aug	4 Sep	11 Sep	18 Sep	25 Sep	2 Oct
Thu	Wed											Wed					

Cherry Hinton: north of the railway as Teversham

Fen Ditton, Fulbourn / Cherry Hinton*, Girton, Milton, Oakington, Stow-cum-Quy, Westwick

7 Jun	13 Jun	19 Jun	26 Jun	3 Jul	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul	31 Jul	7 Aug	14 Aug	21 Aug	29 Aug	4 Sep	11 Sep	18 Sep	25 Sep	2 Oct
Thu	Wed											Wed					

Cherry Hinton: south of the railway as Fulbourn

Wednesday

Bar Hill, Childerley, Chittering, Dry Drayton, Knapwell, Landbeach, Longstanton, Swavesey, Waterbeach

8 Jun	14 Jun	20 Jun	27 Jun	4 Jul	11 Jul	18 Jul	25 Jul	1 Aug	8 Aug	15 Aug	22 Aug	30 Aug	5 Sep	12 Sep	19 Sep	26 Sep	3 Oct
Fri	Thu											Thu					

Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Cottenham, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Lolworth, Over, Rampton, Willingham

8 Jun	14 Jun	20 Jun	27 Jun	4 Jul	11 Jul	18 Jul	25 Jul	1 Aug	8 Aug	15 Aug	22 Aug	30 Aug	5 Sep	12 Sep	19 Sep	26 Sep	3 Oct
Fri	Thu											Thu					

Thursday

Cambourne, Comberton, Croxton, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick, Papworth Everard, Papworth St Agnes, Toft

9 Jun	15 Jun	21 Jun	28 Jun	5 Jul	12 Jul	19 Jul	26 Jul	2 Aug	9 Aug	16 Aug	23 Aug	31 Aug	6 Sep	13 Sep	20 Sep	27 Sep	4 Oct
Sat	Fri											Fri					

Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Bassingbourn, Bourn, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Hatley, Litlington, Longstowe, Lt Gransden, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow

9 Jun	15 Jun	21 Jun	28 Jun	5 Jul	12 Jul	19 Jul	26 Jul	2 Aug	9 Aug	16 Aug	23 Aug	31 Aug	6 Sep	13 Sep	20 Sep	27 Sep	4 Oct
Sat	Fri											Fri					

Friday

Barton, Foxton, Grantchester, Gt Eversden, Harlton, Haslingfield, Kingston, Lt Eversden, Newton, Orwell, Shepreth, Thriplow & Heathfield, Whittlesford, Whaddon, Wimpole

11 Jun	16 Jun	22 Jun	29 Jun	6 Jul	13 Jul	20 Jul	27 Jul	3 Aug	10 Aug	17 Aug	24 Aug	1 Sep	7 Sep	14 Sep	21 Sep	28 Sep	5 Oct
Mon	Sat											Sat					

Barrington, Caldecote, Duxford, Fowlmere, Gt Chishill, Heydon, Lt Chishill, Melbourn, Meldreth

11 Jun	16 Jun	22 Jun	29 Jun	6 Jul	13 Jul	20 Jul	27 Jul	3 Aug	10 Aug	17 Aug	24 Aug	1 Sep	7 Sep	14 Sep	21 Sep	28 Sep	5 Oct
Mon	Sat											Sat					

What goes where?

- Bins must be out by 7am on your collection day
- Close lids firmly

Paper only caddy

Paper

Newspapers & magazines

Telephone directories

Catalogues

Envelopes (with or without windows)

Shredded paper*

Junk mail

Jiffy bags, wrapping paper, greeting cards, tissue, cardboard & kitchen paper

* Put shredded paper in an old envelope before placing in the paper only caddy

- Place the caddy inside your blue bin
- Excess blue bin material will be collected if placed alongside the blue bin in a returnable container
- Put items loosely in the blue bin and not in carrier bags
- Rinse items to remove any food contamination

Blue bin

Plastic bottles

Plastic bottle tops & triggers

Plastic packaging (pots, trays & tubs)

Plastic bags

Plastic film & clean food wrapping

Glass jars & bottles

Food & drinks cans

Aerosols

Tin foil & foil trays

Cartons (e.g Tetrapak)

Cardboard

Polystyrene
Pyrex, flat glass, non packaging plastic e.g toys, bowls

Battery bag

Batteries inc. AA & AAA cells, button batteries, size C & D and any laptop & mobile battery

Lead acid batteries e.g. vehicle batteries

Green bin

Garden waste

Cooked/uncooked food waste (meat, fish & dairy)

Kitchen paper and tissues

Any type of cat litter
Cartons (e.g. Tetrapak) - put in blue bin
Turf and soil - due to its weight
Any type of plastic inc bags/sacks

Biodegradable bags (cornstarch, potato starch)
Corrugated cardboard - put in the blue bin
Cardboard - put in the blue bin

- Excess green bin material cannot be collected. Please compost it or take it to Milton or Thriplow Recycling Centre

Black bin

Non-recyclable / non-compostable material

- Please use your black bin for material that cannot be put in green or blue bins
- Excess black bin material cannot be collected. Please take it to Milton or Thriplow Recycling Centres
- Nappies should be put in the black bin
- Empty and full paint tins cannot be collected. Please take them to Milton or Thriplow Recycling Centres

For more information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling or call 03450 450 063

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Housing at our heart

Five key themes that aim to put housing at the 'heart' have been published as part of the Council's housing strategy for the next 5 years. They are:

Health and wellbeing
Economic growth and development
Affordable housing
Reducing fuel poverty and promoting energy efficiency
Tackling homelessness

In previous housing strategies the Council has set ambitious targets to help maintain the quality of life we enjoy in South Cambridgeshire. Key achievements have included over 1,200 new affordable homes, work to keep hundreds of families from becoming homeless, and new extra care schemes for the elderly.

House prices and private sector rents are high, demand for affordable housing exceeds supply, and homelessness is a national problem due to the economic downturn. These challenges focus our priorities over the next 5 years.

On top of our plans to build up to 1,000 new council homes in the next 30 years, we are also pledging to improve housing over the next 5 years by:

- tackling fuel poverty by helping residents to make their homes more energy efficient
- working with partners to help people live independently and remain in their own homes for longer
- making sure we are on hand to help people who are looking for a home in the district and want to explore options other than buying their own home.

• ABOVE **A newly built home at St Mary's Close, Whaddon**

To see all of the pledges we have made, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/housingstrategy
Further information, and paper copies, are also available from Julie Fletcher on 03450 450 051

Wanted! – Private rented accommodation for single people

The Council is on the hunt for more properties to provide private rented accommodation to single people who are looking to share.

Our scheme with King Street Housing Society and Crisis, a national charity for single homeless people, aims to prevent homelessness by bringing together up to three single people under one roof.

Before someone is housed, a thorough assessment of the potential tenant is carried out to ensure suitability, and on-going support is given by our officers.

King Street Housing has over 20 years' experience of running high quality private leasing schemes in partnership with private landlords and local authorities, and offers:

- guaranteed rent payments - no rent arrears
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- no fees
- comprehensive management - they take care of everything

They promise to manage the property and the tenants. Your property will be looked after and returned at the end of the lease in good condition, taking into account fair wear and tear.

Please also get in touch if you have a spare room in your home that you would like to rent to a single person, as we can help to identify a suitable lodger for you.

If you are a homeowner and think you could benefit from this scheme, please contact Deena Coulson at King Street Housing on (01223) 312294 ext.203, or email deena.coulson@kingstreeths.org.uk

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Local measures to tackle drought

Despite heavy rainfall during April and May water remains a scarce resource, and this has never been truer as we experience a drought worse than that in 1976. Although the British Isles are thought of as having ever changing weather that brings regular rain, this is not always the case. Rainfall in the East of England is similar to Rome's with an annual average of 56cm and yet the region, particularly the Cambridge area, is experiencing continued population growth that places increasing demand on the scarce water resource.

In South Cambridgeshire the main water supplier is Cambridge Water, who draw supplies from the porous chalk that lies beneath approximately half of the district. The chalk is acting as a huge underground reservoir that captures and holds autumn and winter recharge rain. This supplies a regular source of clean, cheap water to all residents but when winter recharge fails for two consecutive years, the underground reservoir becomes seriously depleted. Whilst there is still enough to supply residents, Cambridge Water is taking the cautious step to urge its customers to start conserving water in case of further dry spells.

If we all take small simple steps, we can conserve a huge amount of water. Some steps we can take include:

- taking a shower instead of a bath
- holding off washing your car
- limiting the amount you water your garden plants
- catching rainwater in a water butt (or even two or three)
- not watering your lawn (it will soon recover)
- having a water meter installed so you only pay for what you use
- filling a basin when washing rather than leaving the tap to run
- installing water saving devices to taps, showers and toilets
- collecting surplus water when running the tap

The Council works to ensure all new housing developments achieve high environmental standards so that water consumption per person is significantly reduced. This is extremely important in taking the developments at Northstowe and Trumpington Meadows in the direction of environmental sustainability, but actual water conservation relies on us all taking measures to reduce our own consumption.

• Dried up Little Wilbraham River

But what of our rivers and wetlands? The worrying fact is that they are under severe stress as they often rely on the same water stored within the chalk that we use to supply our needs. There are a number of small chalk rivers that are fed by natural springs but many of these, such as the Little Wilbraham River, the upper reaches of the Hoffer Brook and River Mel are all dry. The River Shep has its source within the RSPB's wetland reserve at Fowlmere, and the Environment Agency has turned on a special network of water supply pipes to keep this river, and some other streams, flowing at the moment.

The future for our wetland wildlife is still uncertain as we have a long way to go before the huge deficit in the ground water is replenished. Animals such as water voles will have been left without cover, and fish such as trout may simply have perished. The rain will return and when it does, conservationists and water managers must work together to restore habitats, and ensure that truly sustainable development is delivered across the district.

Has the solar bubble burst?

Following an incredible six months of mass installs, cut of dates, litigation and subsequent appeals; as the dust settles where is the UK solar industry?

April 2012 was always going to be the first reduction in the governments FIT (Feed in tariff). However, due to the incredible success story that solar very quickly became, has it fallen on its own sword? As of March 1st the rate of the FIT has been reduced to just over 21p per kW of power produced. We contacted Paul Shiels, Managing Director of Bedfordshire based GREEN Ltd. We asked Paul how things had changed. "There has been a significant slow down, due to the amount of negative press being peddled I think consumers have been lulled into thinking that the investment is no longer viable." This according to Mr. Shiels could not be further from the truth. "The reduction in the tariff has merely been countered by an equally large reduction in the cost of installation. In the past 12 months GREEN have reduced the price of a 4kw installation from £12500.00 to now £6499.00. This is simply due to the reduction in the panel cost. Solar PV is still offering a ROI in excess of 10%, tax free for 25 years. Where else can you get an investment opportunity like this?" asks Paul.

Paul explained that there will be a further cut in the tariff this July and has urged anyone considering installing solar PV not to dwell too long on making the leap. "With a further cut looming in July it really is imperative people interested do not hang around. The great thing about the market is that due to the massive drop in install costs it has opened this fantastic investment up to a large percentage of people. Simple economics dictate more people have access to £6000.00 than £12000.00.

GREEN Ltd were incorporated in 2009 and have installed over 850 solar PV systems nationwide. Fully MCS and REAL Assurance approved, GREEN have always been a front runner on driving prices down. Paul continued " We have always been very aware that this industry was price restrictive and tried wherever possible to drive our suppliers down to pass on the savings to customers. With over 850 customers we like to think some of those goals have been achieved."

With ever increasing energy prices and a huge uncertaintity on the future cost of oil there really has never been a better time to start producug your own energy. Why not call or email GREEN today and see what a solar installation can do for you and your home.

So in answer to the headline question "HAS THE SOLAR BUBBLE BURST" it's a resounding "NO ITS STILL BOUNCING ALONG"

CALL GREEN ON 0800 008 7609 or visit or webpage www.greenltd.com

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Fit for life

Active & Healthy 4 Life

Our Active and Healthy 4 Life exercise referral scheme has helped over 300 residents in the last twelve months and is now available at the sports centres at all nine of our village colleges.

The scheme provides targeted support for people with health problems, introducing them to physical activity through a 12-week tailored fitness programme, delivered by specialist instructors, after referral from a health professional.

Conditions that may lead to referral include high blood pressure or cholesterol, arthritis, obesity, osteoporosis, and diabetes. The scheme has links with mental health and fall prevention too, and recent studies have also shown that patients undergoing cancer treatment and cardiac rehabilitation benefit greatly from regular exercise.

Graham Lloyd Foster, 69, had his blood pressure, cholesterol, and weight monitored regularly having suffered from Coronary Heart Disease. He was referred to the scheme by a practice nurse and has lost over a stone in eight weeks. He now has more get up and go, and intends to use his local fitness facilities regularly.

David Ingle, 43, suffered for years with back pain that was getting increasingly more frequent and painful. His GP referred him to the scheme and after 12 weeks on an exercise plan his back pain has gone.

The Council subsidises the scheme jointly with NHS Cambridgeshire to keep the costs low. There is an £8 charge for a fitness assessment and £3 charge per class.

• **ABOVE** Lynne Potter with instructors and participants at Impington Sports Centre

If you feel you would benefit from the scheme, contact your doctors surgery to discuss a referral or contact Lynne Potter of Fitness 4 Health, who delivers the scheme on behalf on the Council, on (01954) 713130 or lynne.potter@scambs.gov.uk

Flame grilled advice

• **ABOVE** A sausage that is charred on the outside is not necessarily cooked through

With Jubilee and Olympic celebrations underway, the smell of sizzling barbecue food is already in the air, but combining flames, fuel, food and large groups of people can be a recipe for disaster. So, whilst we cannot guarantee the great British weather, a few practical tips from our food team can ensure a safe and enjoyable event that won't go up in smoke.

Before getting started, always ensure the barbecue is in a sheltered, level spot away from fire hazards and only use firelighters or starter fuel to get it going. For everyone's safety, do not leave the barbecue unattended.

There is more to barbecue safety than the fire. Food poisoning cases double in summer, and the biggest risks are undercooked meat and contamination.

The most effective pracautions are to wash hands before handling food, thoroughly thaw frozen meat, keep cooked and raw meat apart, and check food is cooked through.

Top tips:

- Wait until the coals are powdery grey before cooking
- Turn meat to cook it evenly
- Check there is no pink meat and that juices run clear
- Keep utensils, plates and marinade for cooked and raw meats apart
- Keep raw meat cold and in a sealed container until ready to cook

All food cooked for public consumption at an event must meet food safety requirements. To play it safe, it is advisable to pre-cook meat before barbecuing it.

For more information contact our food team on 03450 450063

Chasing cable theft

The cost of metal theft to the UK has been estimated at around £770million a year. Large as this is, it is dwarfed by the impact the theft has on our communities and businesses.

As a rural district, South Cambridgeshire is particularly vulnerable to BT cable theft and its devastating consequences. Communities can be left isolated and businesses lose money that cannot easily be recovered.

ABOVE Local BT cable we need to protect from thieves

With cable theft on the rise, we need your help to stamp it out and make South Cambridgeshire a safer place. If you see what looks like workmen removing cable from the roadside, particularly at night, please report it immediately. It doesn't matter if it turns out to be legitimate activity.

Call 999 if you see what you believe is a crime in action, or the new 101 police number for non-emergencies

Licensing changes

This year looks set to be busy with many Jubilee and Olympic events scheduled. In light of this, a number of changes have been made to the licensing laws to empower local authorities, reduce red tape for all, and tackle issues of underage alcohol sales and late night drinking.

Amongst the changes, Temporary Event Notices - required by licensed premises wanting to extend conditions temporarily, or premises without a license wanting to hold a one off event - have been made more flexible. Applications that previously took ten working days to serve will, in limited circumstances, now be available in five, and the duration of a Temporary Event Notice has been extended to permit activities up to 168 hours where it was previously 96.

The Council can now also make representations on licensing applications and even object to Temporary Event Notices, meaning licensees will need to be aware of the potential for nuisance and noise pollution.

For more information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/licensing or call 08450 450063

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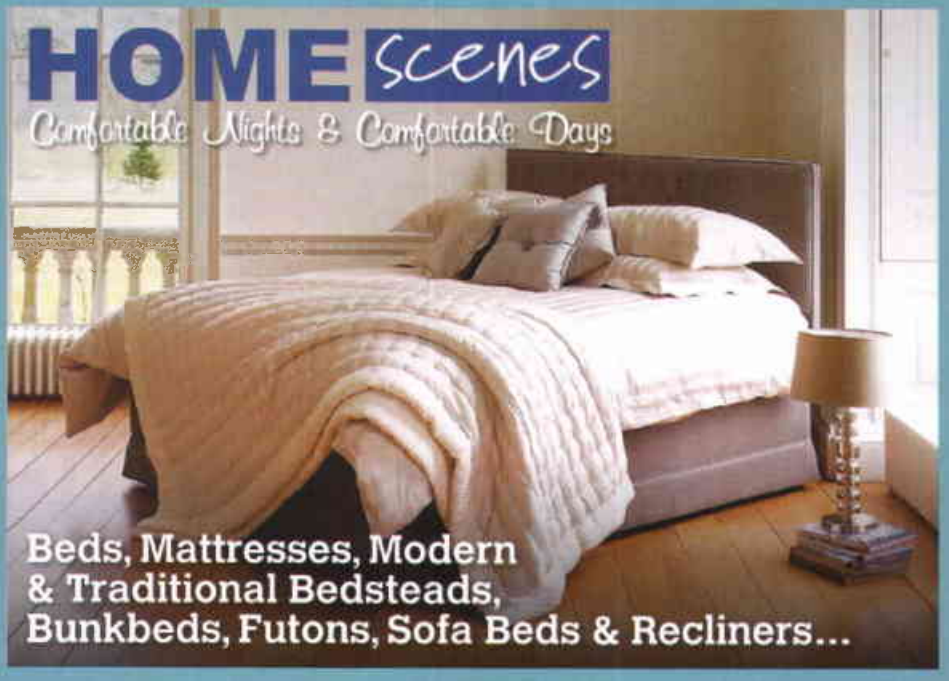

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young voice

Youth Council elections hot up

The race for places on our all new youth council is hotting up – but there's still plenty of time to put your name forward.

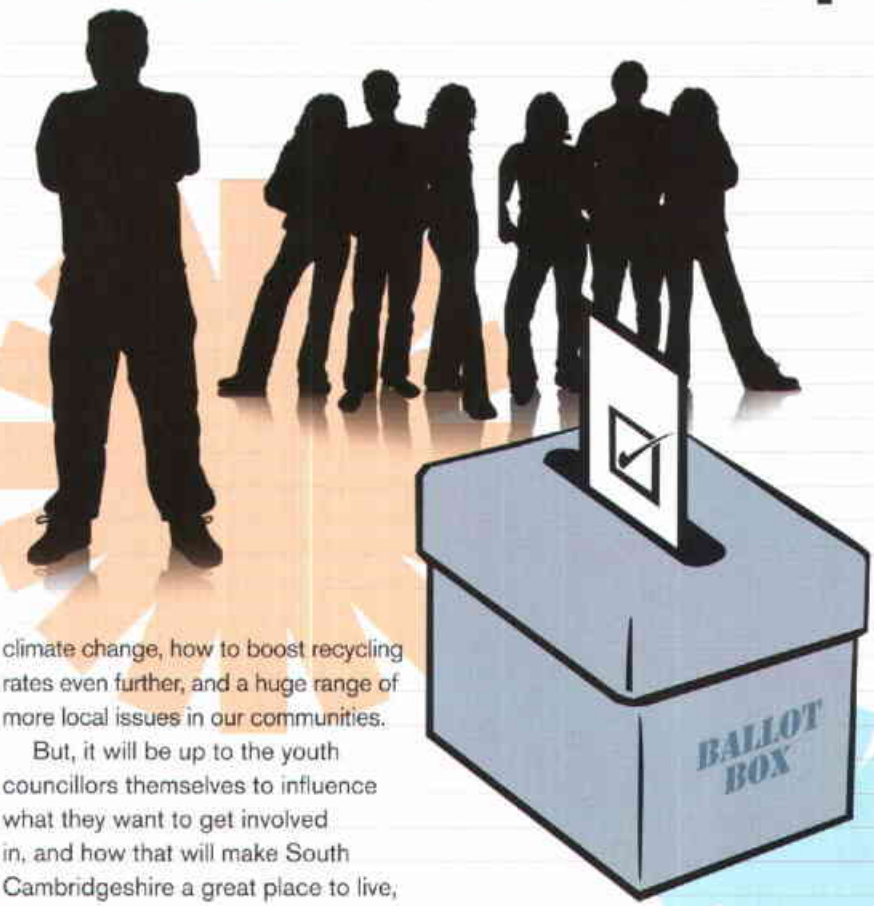
At the beginning of April we opened nominations for young people – aged between 13 and 18 who live in South Cambridgeshire – to step forward to become part of the youth council. We've already had around 15 people get in touch to put themselves forward, but you still have until 1 August to volunteer.

The youth council is clearly creating quite a buzz and early signs are we may even need to hold an election. We don't think this will work in the same way as the district council elections as we are going to ask young people to decide the best way to run it by themselves.

Our youth council is the first of its kind in the area and is being set up to make sure the young people of South Cambridgeshire have a chance to have a real say in all sorts of things the Council does.

If you're aged between 13 and 18 and are thinking about putting yourself forward for the youth council, don't delay filling in the slip at the bottom of this page. The youth council is going to play a big part in helping get important decisions right, such as planning for new housing developments, how the Council helps play a part in tackling climate change, how to boost recycling rates even further, and a huge range of more local issues in our communities.

But, it will be up to the youth councillors themselves to influence what they want to get involved in, and how that will make South Cambridgeshire a great place to live, work and go to school.



You can visit the youth council's facebook page at www.facebook.com/SCYouthCouncil - remember to click 'like' when you visit so you can keep up to date with news. You can also find out more by visiting our website at www.scambs.gov.uk/youngpeople

Yes count me in! I want to be a part of making South Cambridgeshire a really good place to live for everyone:

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____ **Postcode:** _____

Please return to: Tracy Mann, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne, Cambs, CB23 6EA, or email this information to tracy.mann@scambs.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook at South Cambridgeshire Youth Council

rising to the challenge

Young people in South Cambridgeshire took the stage in April to play a leading role in a national challenge to find local governments' future leaders.

The eleven young people from Swavesey Village College worked with local government officers from across the country who were bidding to win The Local Government Challenge – a series of events similar to the TV programme 'The Apprentice'.

The Council hosted the penultimate contest in April, where candidates had to come up with ways to build on plans to save £250,000 by bringing our customer contact centre back in-house while at the same time finding more convenient ways for residents of all ages to get in touch.

The young local students gave some amazing ideas for how they would improve communication with residents and staggered judges with how they saw the future of South Cambridgeshire.

Better use of social media, web chat and text messaging were just some of the Council's new ideas under the scrutiny of our young people and, because they came up with such good ideas, they were recruited by the challenge contestants to help pitch their final presentations to the judges. Although Lord Sugar wasn't in sight, the feedback on the students' input from all those taking part in the day – including the candidates, film crew and our councillors – was very positive. Some of the ideas they put forward are now being included in the work the Council is doing.

Swavesey Village College students take part in The Local Government Challenge

And that's just one example of why the Council wants to set up a youth council, to make sure young people get more involved in the work we do, and decisions we make.

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Don't miss out – your views needed

An important consultation is being launched next month to give residents, businesses and stakeholders a chance to help shape how South Cambridgeshire will be developed until 2031.

The key document is known as the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and it will set out how the area will be developed to provide new jobs and homes up to 2031 to maintain South Cambridgeshire as one of the best places to live and work in the country. At the same time we also want to ensure that what makes the district such a special place is protected.

The first public consultation, known as 'Issues and Options', will take place between 13 July and 28 September this year and looks at key issues for the new plan, including a number of different options for how we could plan for the future of the district. It is important to remember that at this stage no decisions have been made, and your views will play a big part.

We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to have their say. This began by holding a number of workshops in March and April for our local district councillors, parish councils, house builders and local stakeholders – including Cambridge Water, the local health authority and public transport providers to name but a few. This gave the opportunity for them to share their thoughts on key issues for South Cambridgeshire at an early stage to make sure we are all working together to meet the needs of existing and future communities. Now it's important to hear your views.

The new plan is a key priority as it will help support our successful local economy and continue to offer an outstanding and sustainable quality of life for residents.

Information on the consultation will be available on the Council's website, including how to make your views known. There will also be a number of public exhibitions around the district when you can speak to council officers and give your views. Our new consultation panel will also play a part – see page 14 for more information.

Our new Local Plan will have to go through a number of stages including consultation on a draft plan and public examination before it can be adopted around the end of 2015. So don't miss out on the opportunities to have your say along the way.

Some of you will have seen town planning making the national headlines a number of times over past months as the Government prepared a new National Planning Policy Framework. The final version was published in March and sets out the Government's planning policies for England. It replaces 1,300 pages with just 50, and reinforces the importance of Local Plans as the keystone of planning and the starting point for decision-making.

• ABOVE **Workshops were held in March and April for district and parish councillors, house builders and local stakeholders. Don't miss your chance to have a say**

For more information on the consultation and local public events, check our website at www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf or contact the planning policy team on (01954) 713183

Future for minerals and waste

To make sure there will be enough minerals for the development planned for the area, and that waste can be effectively managed for existing and new communities, Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils have adopted a new plan.

It will be used by developers when putting forward proposals, and by councils when determining planning applications to ensure minerals and waste issues are considered.

In our district there are allocations for clay along the A14 in anticipation of future road improvements. Sites for new household recycling centres have been identified in growth areas around Cambridge to encourage us all to recycle more waste by providing high quality facilities close to where people live.

For more information visit the County Council's website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/mineralswasteframework

• ABOVE **Artist impression of proposed new town including Busway link**

What's next for Northstowe?

Plans for the proposed new town of Northstowe were submitted to us in February.

The first submission was the master plan for the whole of the proposed new town; the second an outline planning application for the first phase – which included 1,500 homes, a primary school, sports hub, areas of open space, a local centre, shops, employment opportunities and a site for a household recycling centre.

During the six week public consultation, around 500 residents attended four special events to view plans and speak to representatives from the Council and joint promoters of the new town – Gallagher and the Homes and Communities Agency. We received around 200 responses on the proposals.

Officers are currently reviewing the responses, including those from local residents, parish councils and organisations such as utility providers, emergency services and highway authorities. All comments received are available on our website at www.scambs.gov.uk/Northstowe2012

Key issues raised include impact on the A14 and local roads, ensuring the town has the right services, facilities and jobs, as well as utilities such as water. We will be looking at all these issues over the next few weeks and will then be discussing alterations to the plans with the joint promoters.

Work is also underway to see how the secondary school, which would be on land next to the first phase, could be brought forward as soon as possible. It could be ready as early as 2018 and will take children from both Northstowe and Longstanton.

The County Council continues to work with the Highways Agency on plans for A14 improvements. We should know more about this in July, which is before any decisions will be made on Northstowe.

A report on the master plan for the new town is planned to be presented to the ten elected district and county councillors on the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee in the summer. They will decide whether or not it should be endorsed.

It is anticipated the planning application for the first phase of the proposed new town will be presented to the committee in the autumn.

As plans for the proposed new town are so important a joint District and County Council team is now in place. We will keep residents updated as plans progress, including further chances for you to get involved.

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Welcome

...to the final of our London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games features.

Cllr James Hockney, SCDC Champion for the Olympics writes:

WITH THE GAMES ONLY WEEKS AWAY, we're almost under starter's orders and, with that, we have some exciting news.

I am very proud to announce that one of our very own South Cambs residents will be carrying the official flame out of Cambridge in the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay on 8 July. Furthermore, during the London 2012 Paralympic Torch Relay in August, the Paralympic Flame will visit South Cambridgeshire, arriving at Milton Country Park by boat. Read on to find out how you can join in the celebrations.

I am also very pleased to announce that our Elite Athlete Award Scheme will continue to run until March 2013, with a further £10,000 of funding to support our most talented athletes. The scheme has now awarded 89 grants totaling over £43,500 and I wish all the athletes we have supported the best of luck as they work towards achieving their goals.

Participation is one of the key legacy aims of the Olympics and we hope that all the activities we have helped to support in the run up to the event will continue to provide opportunities for people to get active, to improve health and well-being and to create community involvement opportunities.

Don't forget to join us again this year at our biggest celebration event, Park Life, on Sunday 15 July.

Details of all events can be found at www.scambs.gov.uk/London2012

SCDC OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN

OLYMPIC GAMES: FEWER THAN 50 DAYS

PARALYMPIC GAMES: FEWER THAN 80 DAYS

Park Life 2012

On Sunday 15 July we will be hosting our biggest Olympic celebration when we bring Milton Country Park to life with music, sport, art and dance. We're even expecting guest appearances from the official London 2012 mascots, Wenlock and Mandeville, who will lead the parade at 3.30pm.

Park Life promises to be a fun filled day for all the family. Activities will range from fishing, kayaking, sailing, canoeing, waterwalking, and paddleboarding, to disc golf, trampolining, climbing, archery, fencing, and orienteering. And if that wasn't enough, there will also be an inflatable assault course, dedicated sports zone with special Olympic challenge and family races, and an arts area where there will be workshops in puppet making, music and dance and an opportunity to have a go at circus skills.

New for Park Life is a range of special activities in 'The Wild Place' - a secure woodland area within the park - that will be open for children and families.

For residents looking at ways to get active in 2012, a visit to the fitness tent is a must. As well as challenging your family and friends on the rowing machines, you can get your blood pressure checked and find out about our popular Walk and Run for Fun scheme.

Fitness instructors from our Healthy and Active 4 Life exercise referral scheme will also be on hand to give advice to those looking to return to a more active lifestyle, and to provide information about local sports centres and sports clubs.

Having taken all that in, visitors will be ready for a well-earned refreshing smoothie, that they are invited to make themselves by choosing some ingredients and pedaling as fast as they can on the smoothie bike.

Activities will run throughout the day, from 11am to 6pm, and the best part of all, it is all free.

For more information contact Jane Lampshire or Tim Herod on 03540 450 500

Claim to flame

Local resident Angela Taylor, 53, of Haslingfield has been one of the lucky few nominated to carry the flame in the official London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay. She will put South Cambridgeshire on the map when she carries the flame out of Cambridge on Sunday 8 July.

Angela was nominated for the opportunity following a career of community volunteer work and fundraising achievements. For 10 years she volunteered as a safer cycling instructor for local schools, teaching hundreds of young people the importance of road safety. She spent six years with the Girl Guide movement and set up Haslingfield's first Rainbow Guide group. In addition to her volunteer work, Angela is a successful fundraiser for Breast Cancer UK.

Angela said "I'm very excited and proud to be carrying the torch on behalf of all volunteers across the district. I will be visiting local schools ahead of the relay to talk to the children about the Olympics with a view to bringing a little piece of the event to each of them".

• Angela Taylor

Visit www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay to find out where and when you can see the torch

Schools celebration

Our sports officers have been supporting local schools, and the Friends of Histon and Impington Recreation Ground, to host an Olympic celebration for families and young people.

The event will take place on Friday 6 July, from 4pm at the Histon and Impington recreation ground, to mark the eve of the Olympic Torch arriving in Cambridge.

An opening ceremony will kick off the event before over a thousand young people take part in a torch relay and parade, representing the Olympic nations. This will be led by the 1948 London Olympic Torch.

Following the parade, young people will take part in an interschool sports festival that will include football, netball, hockey, kwik cricket, relay races, athletics and dance. Sports demonstrations and taster sessions will take place throughout the evening as well as multi-skill activities for children aged six and under.

Local schools have helped plan the event, as well as local choirs, dance groups and sports clubs, to encourage and inspire the children to get involved in local cultural activities and clubs.

All young people participating in the event will receive a souvenir t-shirt in the colour of one of the five Olympic rings, and during the closing ceremony they will unite to form the five rings which will be captured by an aerial photograph.

Paralympic Flame gets residents fired up

In a new concept for the Paralympic Torch Relay, four flames will be lit in London, Greater Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff and then shared throughout the nation.

On Saturday 25 August the London flame will visit South Cambridgeshire, arriving at Milton Country Park Visitor Centre by boat.

To mark the occasion, we are putting on a number of activities for residents to enjoy, including water sports, Boccia, crafts, and all ability cycling.

At the end of their tours, the four flames will be reunited at the Lighting Ceremony at Stoke Mandeville - the spiritual home of the Paralympic Movement - to create the London 2012 Paralympic Flame. The Flame will then be carried by torchbearers in a 24-hour overnight relay on Tuesday 28 August to the Olympic Stadium in London for the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games.

You Can Bike Too

On 4 April we marked 100 days to the Paralympics with the successful launch of an all ability bike club at Milton Country Park that enables disabled residents to take up cycling with their friends, family or carers in a safe, off-road environment.

The club was set up by the You Can Bike Too project team, which we supported with funding for specially adapted bikes, secure storage and trained instructors.

Bikes are available for hire on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11am to 4pm at a cost of £5 per bike, per hour and regular group sessions are planned to follow.

For more information contact the visitor centre at Milton Country Park on (01223) 420060

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Lofty plans to tackle rising bills

More tenants have been telling us they are struggling with the cost of heating their home due to rising fuel bills – but we have plans to help tackle the problem by stopping heat escaping.

To do this we are seeking to ensure that every Council-owned home has 300mm of loft insulation – the recommended amount – and in addition we are targeting homes where cavity walls have insulation that could be improved.

Some of our homes have solid walls, or are of a non-traditional construction, and are especially hard to heat. External cladding is a costly way to insulate these properties, but after much consideration and consultation with tenants, it was considered the best way to make sure tenants' homes were better insulated to save on fuel bills. External cladding is also far less disruptive than other options. It will take a number of years to treat all homes, but we have trialled a system that has been very successful and are beginning to get the project underway.

On top of improving insulation to stop heat escaping from homes, we are replacing old and inefficient heating systems. Many of our villages do not have access to mains gas. In these areas where oil is relied upon, we have been installing air source heat pumps. Feedback from tenants has so far been really positive, and we will continue with installing these in other properties.

We hope to also bring you more good news soon as the Council has put forward a bid for some extra EU funding that will mean we can employ a dedicated officer responsible for tackling fuel poverty and cutting down on our carbon emissions. Watch this space.

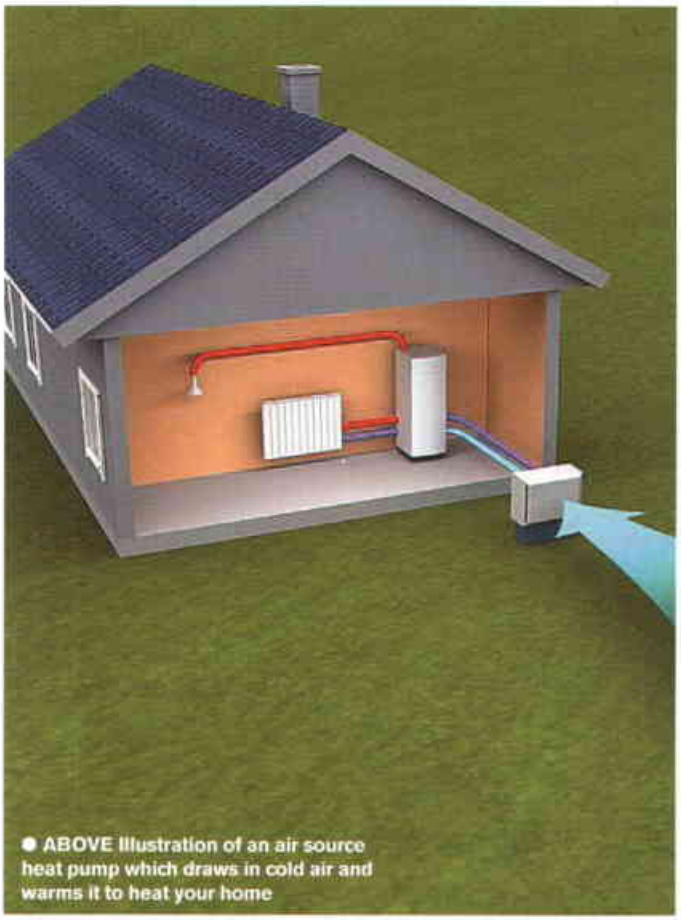

Image copyright of Danfoss Ltd

• ABOVE Illustration of an air source heat pump which draws in cold air and warms it to heat your home

Spotlight on housing fraud

The Government is looking to further crackdown on housing tenancy fraud to make sure housing and services are not taken away from people who need and qualify for them. In South Cambridgeshire we already take this issue very seriously.

Tenancy fraud covers areas such as sub-letting your council home and living elsewhere, providing false information to obtain a tenancy, or passing on a house to someone else who has no legal right to occupy the property.

Remember, tenancy fraud is not fair and it's unlawful.

If you would like to report possible tenancy fraud please contact your Housing Services Officer on 0345 450 051

Updated guide coming soon

Your tenant handbook contains all the information you need to explain your tenancy, your responsibility to us, and our responsibilities to you.

Following some changes by central Government and locally, such as Mears taking on routine repairs, we are updating your handbook. Tenant forums will be consulted as the revisions progress.

At any one time the most up to date version of the handbook can be found on our website at www.scambs.gov.uk/tenantshandbook, and contains everything from our service to you and rent matters, to repairs, maintenance and even information if you want to move out.

If you have a question about your tenancy and cannot find the answer within the handbook, or you wish to receive a printed copy, please contact 03450 450 051

Eclipsed project sparked back to life

• ABOVE Cllr Val Barrett, ward member for Melbourn, and Cllr Mark Howell, cabinet member for housing

Free daytime electricity has begun being supplied to around 500 council-owned homes after solar panels were installed.

The cost of buying, installing and maintaining the panels has been paid for by Savills Solar, a company we teamed up with for the project. In return they will receive a subsidy from Government for every kilowatt of electricity generated for the next 25 years. This pays for the scheme.

Sadly, our original plans to install solar panels on up to 2,300 homes were not feasible as the Government suddenly cut the subsidy paid for energy produced.

The decision on which roofs to install panels on, was based on where it was possible to generate the most electricity at the most competitive installation costs. Therefore the roofs chosen face south or south west, but the size of the roof was also taken into consideration, which had to be free of shadows from neighbouring buildings or trees.

Homes with solar panels are expected to save around £150 a year.

Should you have any queries about the solar panel project please contact Duncan Vessey on (01954) 713139

Cash boost to council housing

The biggest programme of building new council-owned homes has become a reality following a multi-million pound transaction which marked a new era in the way central government handles council housing finance.

On 28 March, along with councils up and down the country, the Council took on a debt. In our case £205 million. This was not something we had a choice about, but in exchange we no longer have to pay over 50% of our collected rental income to central government. The end result is that we are better off, and can invest:

- £26 million collected from rent will be put aside to replace bathrooms and kitchens in existing council homes, improve paths and walls, update some of the oldest properties so they are more energy efficient, and adapt properties for disabled tenants and for older people so they can continue to live safely in their homes.
- Over the next 5 years or so we will be replacing around 200 older council-owned homes that will have come to the end of their life with new modern and environmentally friendly properties.
- And, we also aim to begin a programme of building new council homes with any investment surplus built up over the next 10 years or so. We aim at building 1000 new homes over the next 30 years, and around half of the new homes could be built within the next 15 years.

Don't forget

From 1 April, Mears, a major national company specialising in carrying out repairs in the public sector, became our contractor for day to day, out of hour and emergency repairs. Mears' contact centre is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

To report a repair call free phone 0800 085 1313

LETS MIX THINGS UP

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Join the discussion

Did you know that four out of 10 tenants consider themselves to be disabled in some way? That's what we found out after our tenants' survey in 2009 which led to a Disability Forum being set up.

The Forum is a way of harnessing your thoughts, experience, enthusiasm and ideas to help improve our awareness of the issues you face and change our service to better adapt to people's needs.

So far The Forum has been:

- involved in an event in Cambridge in late 2011 to raise awareness of challenges faced by those with disabilities. and are looking at all of your feedback now. We will share the results with you in a future edition of South Cambs Magazine.
- working on a leaflet containing all the services, charities and other contacts tenants or leaseholders with disabilities may find useful. This will be available by the autumn.
- consulted on a variety of housing policies and procedures to help us get it right for those with disabilities

And this year the forum will be:

- helping us further simplify our documents and produce easy to read versions.
- part of the group who checks we are considering equality and diversity in everything we do.
- working with us to raise awareness during Disability History Month in November and December

The Forum aims to involve the Council's tenants and leaseholders that are interested in helping to improve the quality of life of disabled tenants, including members of their household who are disabled. It meets every other month and transport to and from meetings can be arranged.

New members are always welcome – please get in touch with the Council's resident involvement officer, Gill Anderton, on (01954) 713377.

You will have...

...recently received a new survey called "Your Service" that we would encourage you to complete. It can, and does, help improve our services to you.

Your homes, your service, your event

Tenants are being encouraged to come along to one of three open days that aim to bring people together to share thoughts, ask questions and get people more involved.

The Tenant Participation Group has been working with the Council to organise the free events, which will include lots of activities – including stuff for the kids. Watch this space in the next edition of the magazine for more details.

For now, the dates for your diary are:

Saturday 8 September at Impington Village College
Saturday 29 September at Melbourn Village College
Saturday 20 October at Sawston Village College.

All events will run from noon to 4pm and are at venues with ample parking and good bus links. If you would like to attend, but transport is a problem, please get in touch.

Green spaces

After looking at a number of options, we wanted to let you know we have extended the current landscaping contract with SP Landscapes until March 2015. Importantly, the services we provide, will remain unchanged.

We know that the maintenance of Council owned grassed areas is important to you and therefore, we will complete 12 grass cuts a year to our main areas - which is the vast majority - and four to the areas which are less frequently used. For elderly and disabled tenants who have previously received assistance we will also continue to cut their grass five times a year.

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* see in store for details